Remarks

This is a continuation application of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/751,766, filed 12/29/00, which is a divisional application of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/320,002, filed May 26, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,197,223, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/976,206, filed November 21, 1997, which is based upon and claims priority of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/031,478, filed November 27, 1996.

In Application Serial No. 09/320,002 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,197,223), the Examiner maintained a restriction requirement among Group I, claims 1-59, Group II, claims 59-60 and 63-68, Group III, claims 61-62, Group IV, claims 69-74, 75-77 and 82-92, Group V, claim 78, Group VI, claim 79, Group VII, claims 80-81, and Group VIII, claims 93-108. The claims of Group VIII were elected in Application Serial No. 09/320,002. The claims of Group I were elected in the divisional application Application Serial No. 09/751,766. This application is directed toward the invention of Group II, claims 59-60 and 63-68.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 59, 60 and 63-68 are now pending. Allowance of this amended application is hereby requested.

EXPRESS MAIL NO.: EV 316 335 022 US

Serial No.: Unassigned Preliminary Amendment Page 12 of 12

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned regarding any questions related to this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 24, 2004

By:

Samuel B. Rollins Registration No. 52,180

Kilpatrick Stockton LLP 1001 West Fourth Street Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Phone: 336-607-7432 Fax: 336-734-2651

32887-297395 WINLIB01:1061952.2